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<https://www.meetup.com/Broward-County-Sierra-Club-Group/>

Broward Sierra Club receives the NatureScape Emerald Award for our Native Plant Bird Garden at Markham Park, Sunrise

What is NatureScape Emerald Award?

The NatureScape Emerald Award recognizes businesses, municipalities, schools, government facilities (excluding Broward County agencies) and homeowners that have created and maintained model Florida-friendly landscapes or completed exceptional projects that demonstrate visible ecological practices (e.g., non-cypress mulch, rain barrels, composter). On July 14, 2020, the Broward Sierra Club was given this award for the bird sanctuary they financed and help plant on May 19, 2019.



The bird sanctuary is located in Markham Park, Sunrise, on the southside after you turn left at the guard gate. It's opposite the gated dog area (Barkham Park). More photos can be found on our [Facebook page](#).



Broward Sierra News



Broward County is now "For the Birds"

– Ina Topper, *Broward ExCom Chair*

Question (and we hear this a lot): "When telling us so much about environmental problems and setbacks, what are the Broward Sierra's success stories?"

Answer: "Oh, there are quite a few. But even more so, we do need to constantly draw more attention regarding the many, still worrisome, issues." Just to mention a few:

- The rapidly diminishing territories where our endangered Florida panthers are still (barely) able to roam.
- The constant threat of statewide red tide and, even more so, green slime problems in our lakes and water ways, due to unchecked runoffs from agricultural lands, golf courses and the many residential lawns which, for reasons unbeknownst to us, HAVE to be drowned in harmful pesticides and fertilizers.
- And then there's the (currently still way below a could've-been success level) county's tons of unrecycled bottles, cans, plastics - you name it - going straight into our landfills.
- We are cautiously optimistic about saving our most wonderful ocean creatures, the sea turtles. Although, due to global warming, there is now another, erstwhile unforeseen hurdle threatening these species: the lopsided all female gender only. (A side notes: just as with some other species like alligators, the egg temperature while hatching determines the species' gender.) Yet - all along many of our County's coastal boulevards, especially Fort Lauderdale beach, shaded street lights now direct the light away from the beaches to prevent disorientation of hatchlings.
- And there's still some work to be done when it comes to preserving our coral reefs. Let there be no mistake, the moratorium at present regarding further dredging may be only that: just a moratorium to be done away with as soon as our current, environmentally unfriendly government gets a chance.

However, there is some good news. Yes, we did make inroads regarding recyclables, we've had recycle bins for over two decades in Broward households. And yes, the almighty scourge of carelessly discarded single-use plastic bags is still everywhere, wafting in the wind from trees, floating around in gutters, to finally disappear for a 1000-year slow demise in Florida's infamous mountain landscape of growing landfills. But there's hardly a supermarket or box store which does NOT provide recyclable shopping bags - some so nice that they should be used as gift bags for each and every celebratory event (just a suggestion - be DONE with the 1x use paper version).

Now for the BIG success (which hopefully sets us on a path for more to follow). For this success we'd like to thank a very environmentally-active Broward Sierra resident, someone whom we're lucky to have as member on our ExCom team: Susan Caruso! (She's the one wearing the black mask in the picture on page 1.)

Susan almost single-handedly took it upon herself to put together a plan for a Bird Sanctuary in Markham Park, one of the larger parks in Broward County. **A special thanks to the staff at Markham Park for nominating us, for the award and to the Broward County NatureScape staff for assisting in the plant selection and rounding up volunteers to do the initial planting.** And to everyone else who made it possible as part of a Broward Habitat Connectivity Project to set aside an area in the park ideally suited for a friendly bird habitat. As a side note: this project aims to promote and preserve over 500 native plants as well as restoring vegetation for migratory birds.

Just as butterflies are known to need specific flowers to thrive (and there's already a butterfly habitat at Markham), birds also need their very own unique space to feel at home, lay eggs and nurture their young. For example, one thing we did NOT know was that a bird sanctuary needs to be in close proximity to a (preferably old) stand of trees. Happy to say, that's still an option at Markham park! Another thing we did not know (a naive question from the undersigned) that bird houses are NOT welcome in a true sanctuary for birds in nature locations. They attract the aggressive and also non-native bird species, which is exactly what we're trying to protect this habitat from.

There was a lot of work to be done to create this garden: clearing of weeds and using the right flora-replanting. For this, Susan and her team surely deserve the extra kudos in this suffocating hot time of the year. (Thanks also to Jackie & Kip Fisher, Max Goldstein, Pat Turpening and her husband, Susan's husband Bill, and Adriene Barmann for lending the extra hand.) Receiving the Markham Park Emerald Award for her Susan's efforts was not only well deserved but - and may we please say so? - it's also Susan's single-handed contribution to a great Broward Sierra success story.

If you can occasionally lend a hand, please contact Jackie Fisher at jsf812@bellsouth.net. As always, this is only a beginning; routine upkeep will be needed now that the Broward Sierra group is also 'For The Birds'....



Broward Sierra News



Broward Sierra Club July General Meeting

– Ina Topper, *Broward ExCom Chair*

Everglades Restoration

At our last virtual general meeting, the Zoom edition, we had the pleasure of hosting Dr. Nicholas Aumen, Regional Science Advisor for South Florida for the U.S. Geological Survey.

Dr. Aumen gave us a great presentation on the subject of Everglades Restoration, a topic encompassing such a variety of issues that it wouldn't do justice to this stellar presentation by just summarizing the subject. Even a drastically abbreviated discussion wouldn't do much for gaining an in-depth knowledge.

The subject of a full restoration of our Everglades wetlands has been alive, so to say, for now over two decades. What surprised me was also the fact that legal wrangling to effectively and permanently save our Everglades is still going on as we speak - for over two decades as well.

To this end, we are working on an extensive background and current development article for our next newsletter. We would like to thank Dr. Aumen for his wonderful, very detailed presentation which certainly shed light on a lot of things we didn't know, but NEEDED to know.

“Everglades Restoration is a test, if we pass, we get to keep the planet” – Joe Podgor

To be continued next month.



A Zoom recording of the meeting can be found [here](#).



And congratulations to Vera Stein who won a pair of SkyGenius 10x50 binoculars by knowing the five major threats to Everglades Restoration.

United States Geological Survey



Why should we care about the Everglades?

- International Biosphere Reserve (1976)
- UNESCO World Heritage Site (1979)
- Wetland of International Importance (1987)
- Ecologically rich and unique globally
- Important for human health and well-being
- Provides many ecological services – flood buffer, water storage, groundwater recharge, water cleansing, shoreline stabilization and storm protection, biodiversity
- And, because we just should!

United States Geological Survey



Five major threats to Everglades restoration

1. Altered hydropattern
2. Degraded water quality
3. Non-native plants and animals
4. Development pressure
5. Climate change



Broward Sierra News



Broward Sierra Club Political Corner

– Susan Steinhauser, *Broward PAC Chair*

As we have elections coming up, we will be adding a new section in our newsletter: The Political Corner. On November 3, Americans will vote in what many consider to be the most important election of our time.¹ But before November 3, Floridians will have another important election - the primary election on August 18, when a number of local races will be decided. It is important to vote in both elections. Even if you are registered as “Independent/No Party Affiliation,” many races are non-partisan, meaning anyone can vote for any candidate.

TO BE ABLE TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY ELECTION, YOU MUST HAVE BEEN REGISTERED TO VOTE BY JULY 20 AND YOUR INFORMATION HAS TO BE CURRENT; the deadline to register to vote in the general election is October 5.

Go to <https://registertovoteflorida.gov/home> TODAY to make sure you’re registered to vote and that your information is up-to-date! And don’t let COVID-19 keep you from voting! You can use Vote-by-Mail if you don’t want to go to the polls. If you live in Broward County, request your Vote-by-Mail ballot here:

<https://www.browardsoe.org/Voting-Methods/Vote-By-Mail-Voting>. Thank you!

¹. <https://thehill.com/homenews/campaign/479580-on-the-trail-why-2020-is-the-most-important-election-in-our-lifetime>

Finally, the Broward Sierra Political Committee is hard at work making sure we elect officials that will protect the environment. Spreading the word about environmental candidates requires funding. Please visit our [Donation Page](#) and share with your friends and family. Every dollar helps. Thank you!

Broward Sierra Club August 6 General Meeting

The Sierra Club of Broward County is pleased to welcome Commissioner Beam Furr as the principal speaker at the August 6th general meeting, hosted online.

Commissioner Furr will speak on “Waste Management: The Recycling Problem in Broward County”.

Commissioner Furr is the elected Commissioner for Broward County Commission District 6, representing parts of Hollywood, Hallandale Beach, and Pembroke Pines. He served as Broward County Mayor for the 2017-2018 term.

Commissioner Furr grew up in the areas he represents and works within the community to make our home a better place to live. Prior to serving on the Broward County Commission, he was a Hollywood City Commissioner for 12 years representing District 2. Commissioner Furr was the media specialist for Flanagan High School for many years.

We think you’ll find this a fascinating and informative presentation, thanks to Commissioner Furr’s unique insight and professional experience.

Time: Aug 6, 2020 07:00 PM Eastern Time

Link for the Zoom Meeting

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746126381>

Meeting ID: 847 4612 6381

One tap mobile

+13126266799,,84746126381# US (Chicago)

+19294362866,,84746126381# US (New York)

Dial by your location

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+1 669 900 6833 US (San Jose)

+1 253 215 8782 US (Tacoma)

Meeting ID: 847 4612 6381

Find your local number:

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/84746126381>



Broward Sierra News









Let the sunshine in and let it pay your electric bill!

We have great news! Broward Sierra has teamed up with Broward County and Solar United Neighbors to bring you the Broward Solar Co-op.

By joining, you'll learn how solar works and what it takes to go solar. Then, you'll have the opportunity to go solar at the group rate, alongside your neighbors!

The co-op is free to join! Learn more and sign up at SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward

<h1>Want to Go Solar?</h1>	 <p>SAVE MONEY ON THE COST OF GOING SOLAR</p>
<p>JOIN THE SOLAR UNITED NEIGHBORS BROWARD CO-OP</p>	 <p>GET UNBIASED, EXPERT HELP THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS</p>
<p>JOIN US FOR AN INFORMATION SESSION ONLINE</p> <p>Tuesday, August 4 at 12:00 pm Tuesday, August 11 at 6:00 pm Wednesday, August 26 at 6:00 pm Thursday, September 17 at 6:00 pm Tuesday, October 6 at 6pm</p>	 <p>WE'RE A NON-PROFIT THAT HELPS THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE GO SOLAR EACH YEAR</p>
<p>REGISTER & MORE INFO SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward/Events</p> <p>JOIN THE CO-OP SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward</p>	
	
<p>SolarUnitedNeighbors.org/Broward QUESTIONS? email: fteam@solarunitedneighbors.org</p>	